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Letter from J. C. Clemson to Anna Clemson, 1864 February 21

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Johnson Island
Black Ct #11

Feb 21st / 1864

Dear Mother

I have just received your letter dated Feb 14th & hasten to answer the same. As you are anxious to know whether I am here or - with my ft Lockout friends I will state, that I am still an inmate of the highly patronised & select institution for Rebels on Johnsons Island, and am likely to remain in "statu quo" till Messers B. S. Butler & Old Sec sit to change our base. The stamps sent in your last have been received & am much obliged. You allude to my being the oldest inhabitant of this asylum, now good are very much mistaken for when one has been here for six months he is just beginning to appreciate what wheat bread & mess pork is by those that have had the benefit of twelve months fasting. I received your letter telling me of the old gentleman proving no friend to himself by breaking his arm: how unfortunate. As to the in enigma you speak of I am not able to penetrate for your letter has not been received so tell me the riddle in your next. Give my love to Wm & Mary & also my regards to all friends. Tell F. and her how I am pining in my nest.

Yr Devoted Son
J. H. Johnson
Do not forget to send my seal jacket in the box